

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

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Cover photo: Members of the Vessel Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) team return to the guided missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CTF 150) after searching several fishing dhows in the Gulf of Oman.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"In Saddam's time human beings had no value. But now our first priority is the human being."

– Sgt. Maj. Nadhim,
Iraqi Self Defense Force



Brig.-Gen. Neville Reilly, NZ

The Olympic Games have just concluded in Athens. The Olympic Games bring people from the nations of the world together 'in peace to respect universal moral principles'.

The Iraqi Olympic Team was given a loud cheer as it entered the stadium. The team had traveled by military aircraft from Iraq as the security situation there prevented the team flying by commercial airliner. Iraq was suspended by the International Olympic Committee in 2003 because of human rights violations, and only reinstated earlier this year.

The Afghan Olympic Team this year included the first ever woman team member. Afghanistan was suspended from the Olympics in 1999, partly because of Taliban's ban on Afghan women competing at the Games.

The first Olympic Games were held at Olympia, Greece, in 776BC. The symbolism of the Olympic Games being held on this occasion in the country that was the birthplace of democracy is not lost. There are those who believe that the most effective way of combating terrorism is by instituting more democratic governments in the world. But just having more democratic forms of government is not sufficient. Democracies must also take action to prevent terrorism wherever it may be.

The Coalition in the Global War on Terrorism is working hard to combat terrorism. Member nations are contributing according to their capabilities. Support includes personnel, services and materiel. It includes supplies, logistic and intelligence support, basing and over-flight rights, and reconstruction assistance. Regardless of the size of the contribution, members of the coalition are working together effectively.

The ancient Olympic Games also provided an opportunity for the citizens of the Greek city-states to discuss important political issues and to form political and military alliances. As each nation reflects with national pride on its achievements at the latest Olympic Games, it is appropriate to remember the Olympic spirit: peace and the respect of universal moral principles. The efforts of this political and military alliance, the Coalition in the Global War on Terrorism, will do much to assist in realizing this noble Olympic goal.

Neville Reilly
Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group

Washington, D.C. – Said Tayeb Jawad, Ambassador of Afghanistan, signed four grant and credit agreements totaling US\$200 million with the World Bank. The funded projects aim at strengthening institutional capacity building, urban development, and promoting investment and enhancing the private sector in Afghanistan. Ambassador Jawad welcomed the projects' funding by the World Bank and noted, "These major credits and grants — which consists of 50% of the World Bank's entire grants and credits to the needy countries — signify the confidence of the international community in the Afghan government and the future of our country."

The grant and credits are funding the following four projects:

- **The Education Quality Improvement Program:** Supported by a US\$35 million grant, the program will provide grants to schools for quality enhancement activities, including the rehabilitation of the school buildings. The grant will fund increased training opportunities for teachers, school principals and educational administrators at district, province and central levels.

- **Afghanistan Investment Guarantee Facility (AIGF):** Funded by a US\$60 million credit, the Afghanistan Investment Guarantee Facility (AIGF) will encourage foreign investment in Afghanistan by providing political risk insurance of up to US\$60 million. The World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) will administer the facility.

- **Programmatic Support for Institution Building (PSIB):** Funded by a US\$80 million credit to Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance, PSIB aims at supporting the implementation of the Government of Afghanistan's medium-term development strategy within the context of a secure environment and a satisfactory macroeconomic framework. The overall objective of the credit is to deepen, broaden and sustain the reforms underway in the areas of public administration and fiscal management.

- **Kabul Urban Reconstruction Project (KURP):** Funded by a US\$25 million credit, KURP aims at helping the Afghan government improve urban management and the delivery of urban services in the Kabul Municipality. This will be achieved by supporting the integration of selected neighborhoods into the urban fabric of the capital city through carrying out reconstruction and rehabilitation of urban infrastructure and enhancing the managerial capacity of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and the Kabul Municipality.





Courageous Decision

JEMB Announces 9 October for Presidential Elections & Parliamentary Elections Slated for April 2005



by Reginald Austin,
Chief Technical Advisor to the JEMB

The Joint Electoral Management Body's (JEMB's) decisions on the mode and timing of the Presidential and Parliamentary elections have been long awaited. They have come after a considerable process of consultation and discussion, which the JEMB has undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders, both national and international. We now know that the Presidential election will be held on the 9th October. This means that if there must be a Run Off election it will take place after Ramadan in November.

Given the many and widely varied political interests of the Afghan leaders and groups, it is likely that the JEMB's decision will not be universally popular. Thus we, who have the duty to implement the decisions, should note the care with which the JEMB has explained why it reached these momentous decisions, to meet the honourous duty the Election Law has imposed upon it.

Your work, with your Afghan colleagues, has achieved a voter registration goal, which many regarded, until very recently, as impossible. The service you have created for the urban and rural population has enabled a massive section of the ordinary Afghan People, for the first time in this Transitional process, to show that they approve of and wish to participate in this historic democratic experiment.

This task has taken patience, skill, constant hard work, considerable courage and real sacrifice to achieve. The millions of registered voters are thus, not only a powerful message to us all to stick to the task, but to both the Afghan and international leadership to adhere to their promises to allow and support this effort to bring electoral democracy, peace and prosperity to Afghanistan.

We now face an increasingly tough period. The time to October is short, but sufficient. The oppo-

nents of the process now have a specific challenge and will seek to sap the morale and determination of the voters and of our teams during the preparations for the election, something that they failed to do during registration.

We must trust that the international support for the process, whether in funds or in security will not wane. You have laid a solid foundation for the election and shown the capacity, as a multi-national and national electoral service, to meet an enormous challenge. You can certainly bring this stage to a successful conclusion with the continued support of the people and the solidarity of the leaders who have mandated us to do this task.

Beyond November 2004, we now have the opportunity many have longed for: the time to prepare more thoroughly, all the essential elements of a credible Parliamentary election.

The JEMB's decision to postpone these to the spring (probably April) of 2005 was a courageous one on their part, given the enormous expectations and pressures, which had been invested in a simultaneous poll and a neat "wind-up" to the Transition in 2004.

Instead they have taken the view that a credible Parliamentary election, so much more complex, intense and competitive than the Presidential poll, would need Time.

This time is necessary to provide more serious attention to disarmament, to the improvement political freedoms, to political



party formation and organization, to civic and voter education and to the creation of a context which gives enhanced legitimacy to the elected institution.

We, with the Afghan State, People and international community now have been granted a much-improved chance to work to ensure those tasks are undertaken. This time is critically important and we can best complement the JEMB's determination by making full use of every minute that its decisions have granted us.

Thus, this Update comes at an historic moment in this mission. I am delighted to be able to pay tribute to you all for making this moment possible. I look forward to working with you all in the exciting months ahead.

CB



Another hazardous find by Kazakh military engineers

Kazakhstan, a Muslim-majority country and one of the few from the region to send troops to help in the Coalition's efforts to create a better life for the Iraqis, replaced its contingent of army engineers in Iraq with the same number of fresh troops. This is the third group of 27 engineers from Kazakhstan's Kazbat peacekeeping battalion the country has sent to Iraq since the summer of 2003. Kazakhstan soldiers comment that they have been treated well by Iraqis.

Army General Mukhtar Altynbayev, the Defense Minister, welcomed the returning troops saying the rotation was done quietly in light of the security situation in Iraq. The Defense Ministry also announced that its senior inspection team had visited Iraq to check conditions. Led by Deputy Defense Minister Major General Bulat Sembinov, the team discussed with coalition commanders the security of Kazakhstan's contingent and the definition of its legal status in light of political changes in Iraq. Following the inspection, the ministry said that the security of Kazakhstan's contingent will be strengthened.

Kazakhstan's army engineers have destroyed 2.7 million units of

ammunition in Iraq; almost double that of March 2004, when the count of that stood at 1.5 million.

The second engineer team commanded by Major Daulet Kartekov annihilated 610.387 units. The third engineer-demining group lead by Major Nurlan Shashtibayev will continue mine clearance in the area of responsibility.

Some specific aspects concerning Kazakhstan participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom are:

- All engineer personnel are volunteers.
- The engineer-demining group has a humanitarian mission.
- These personnel are specially educated and have had language training for peacekeeping missions.
- Kazakh specialists are assisting in purifying drinking water and keeping the local inhabitants safe from explosive devices and landmines.
- The team has established close cooperation with other Coalition contingents.
- This is the first time that Kazakhstan military personnel have taken part in a peacekeeping mission.

CB



Multi-National Maritime Operations in the Middle East

Published: NAVY TODAY,
June 2004



A boarding team from the New Zealand frigate HMNZS Te Mana (F 111) man a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to conduct a search of fishing dhows in the area.

On 6 May HMNZS Te Mana joined ships of the international coalition assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom in a tight formation for the cameras. The multi-national naval formation comprised two American ships and one each from Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Pakistan and New Zealand, under the tactical control of the Commander Task Force 150. The Public Affairs Staff of CTF 150 describe the ships' tasks.

At sea in the Gulf of Oman, ten warships supporting Operation Enduring Freedom rendezvoused in early May to consider their next step in the ongoing operations in the Arabian Sea. Seven of these ships are assigned to Task Force 150, then under the tac-

tical control of the Commander of TF 150, CDRE Anthony Rix Royal Navy. The task force is responsible for patrolling an area in excess of two million square miles.

From the Red Sea to the Eastern Arabian Sea and from the Somali Basin to the Straits of Hormuz –

it all falls within the responsibility of CDRE Rix. "The size of the operating area is significant", said CDRE Rix, "but we have the ships, equipment and above all the determination to provide an effective operation throughout the area." And there should be no doubt as to the importance of the theatre; it is one of the busiest shipping areas in the world where every type of vessel, from vast supertankers to small dhows, all conduct their business.

CDRE Rix explained that the Strait Of Hormuz is the world's second busiest international strait. A large percentage of the world's crude oil transits the Strait enroute to the West. While not directly responsible for the safety of maritime traffic,

the presence of the Task Force also has an effect in reducing illegal activity which might threaten maritime trade.

For almost two years twelve nations have provided warships to Task Force 150's operations. Under UK tactical command during May, ships from traditional NATO allies such as France, Germany, Italy, Spain and United States are joined by non-European allies from New Zealand and Pakistan. [Note: TF150 had been under the tactical command of the United Kingdom since January 2004, but responsibility was handed over to the French on 1 June. Ed]

Such a wide range of support has put a potent and diverse force of warships at the disposal of CDRE Rix. "I have a highly capable and truly multi-national Task Force," he explained, "We are also heavily supported by units from Japan and, although these remain firmly under the control of their national HQ, they provide support which is invaluable".

Additionally the Task Force is supported by a myriad of other assets; maritime patrol aircraft as well as ship-borne helicopters which all contribute to the activities of the frigates and destroyers that form the core of CDRE Rix's force. "Like the ships, these assets come from



The search on board.

many countries worldwide; units from Australia, Spain, France and United Kingdom work alongside those from the United States". And the importance of these assets should not be underestimated; shore-based maritime patrol aircraft increase the effectiveness of the ships ten-fold. They provide a clear, up-to-date maritime picture covering hundreds of miles ensuring the ships of Task Force 150 are in the right place at the right time to intercept vessels of interest.

rier that has previously seen active service supporting operations in Afghanistan – Ed]

"We have a large number of units at our disposal", explained CDRE Rix. The three Japanese ships present are not part of Task Force 150; those ships do however provide crucial logistical support to the Force. In addition RFA Bayleaf (a British military tanker) is supporting Task Force 150 operations. Other countries that have previously provided assets to Task Force 150 include Australia and

Away Boarding Party!

by Lt Paul Matenga, RNZN

A typical day for the boarding team starts at 0830 with a briefing of the Rules of Engagement (ROE). The ROE is a set of rules that outlines how the Boarding team operates and interacts with personnel when boarding a vessel. This is one of the most important proceedings for the boarding team as it is mandatory to carry out a briefing of the ROE.

at speed towards the vessel. The initial approach towards the vessel is always cautious because the boarding officer needs to ascertain whether it is safe to proceed with the boarding. Once it has been determined that it is safe, the boat goes alongside and the team boards the vessel.

Multi-national Task force 150 in the Gulf of Oman.



The rendezvous of seven Task Force ships provided an invaluable opportunity for the Commanding Officers to discuss the ongoing Operation. Nonetheless, coalition forces were still active across the whole area. One thousand miles away (in the Gulf Of Aden) HMS Cumberland, a Type 22 frigate, remained on patrol whilst even further away units of the Charles De Gaulle battlegroup patrolled the Red Sea [Charles De Gaulle is the new French aircraft car-

Canada.

Task Force 150 vessels are manned by about 2000 officers and sailors from ten different nations and Commander of TF 150 regularly visited the ships to meet the people under his command. "The impression I have gained from the hundreds of people I've met – regardless of their nationality – is that they feel they are doing a worthwhile task in maintaining global security and are proud of their efforts. We never reduce the pressure of patrolling.

I am sure that they wouldn't swap this for anything less rewarding."

CB

When a vessel is identified for a boarding, the command initiates the process of preparing the ship to carry out a boarding operation, e.g. the evolution team closes up and prepares the boarding team boat to be launched. The boarding team musters together, dresses and draws a weapon. The boarding officer then receives a brief from command on the vessel and this details the type of ship, cargo held, next destination port and number of personnel. The boarding officer then relays this information onto the team. The information is vital because it builds a picture of what is expected on the vessel.

On completion of the brief, the team then embarks the boat and travels

The boarding team separates into pre-designated groups, who then carry out a full search of the ship. The boarding officer and a security detail go to the bridge and confirm vessel identification and cargo information from the master. This information is radioed back to Te Mana, where a security check of the vessel is made.

Searching the vessel is carried out with caution as it is unknown who or what is onboard. Every compartment, whether they are locked or open, has to be searched. With larger vessels this can take a very long time to carry out. On completion of the search and if no illicit cargo or suspicious



Marines assigned to the French Destroyer LA MOTTE-PICQUET (D 645) board a local fishing dhow.

personnel have been found, the team disembarks and returns to Te Mana, where a debrief is conducted with the Commanding Officer.

The vessels boarded vary in size from a large super-tanker to a small fishing dhow. The majority of vessels visited during boarding operations in the gulf region are cargo and fishing dhows. The people encountered during dhow boardings are always friendly and interested in knowing what we are doing.

Most people come from either Iran or Pakistan and have a long history in fishing in this area. They are always keen to show their catch and some offer fresh fish to the team (we decline).

The most difficult part of boarding fishing/cargo dhows is overcom-

ing the language barrier. As there are no boarding team members who speak the local language (Fasi, Persian, Arabic, Phastu, to name a few), extracting information is very difficult. This re-



quires a bit of Kiwi ingenuity, which includes sign language, illustrations and translation cards to try and gather as much information as possible. Despite these difficulties the crew and boarding team always remain friendly throughout the operation.

Te Mana's boarding team consists 20 members of our ship's company who come from a wide range of specializations such as Electronics and Weapons Technicians, Gunners and Marine

Engineers. We have two teams (Green and Red) each consisting of six members that make up the core of the ship's boarding team. One team is on call each day to carry out boarding operations. The remaining members of the boarding team are cycled with

Green and Red team members on a regular basis to ensure that experience and training is passed throughout the whole boarding team.

Last month the international media was given the opportunity to report on the boarding operations carried out in the Gulf region. A media day was set aside for the world's press to view boarding operations and Te Mana was fortunate to be given the lead role. The boarding team was assigned a vessel to board and the media accompanied the team on their operation to view us carrying out the job.

Te Mana's boarding team and entire ship's company received praise for the professional approach taken in way we are carrying out boarding operations.

CB



"Operation Fuel for Freedom" Goes On

On July 22nd, with replenishment at sea (RAS) between JDS Towada (AOE) and PNS Tariq, the Pakistani Navy became the eleventh customer of "Operation Fuel for Freedom" conducted by the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

The JMSDF has already provided fuel with navy ships of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Canada, Spain, and Germany.

Following the event, on the 30th of July, a RAS with USS Cushing marked Japan's 400th successful RAS since commencing the Operation with USS Sacra-



mento on the 2nd of December 2001.

The operation is based on Japan's "Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law" which to date has

dispensed over 366.5 million liters (96.4 million gals) to 11 coalition navies' ships, at a cost to the Government of Japan of U.S. \$130 million.

CB



ANA Kandaks Bring Stability to Paktika Province



by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Forward deployed, the Afghan National Army's 3rd Kandak (Battalion), 1st Brigade is strategically located mere miles from Pakistan in a valley commanding a broad view of the surrounding area.

Anti-Coalition militants have been using the area for several years to enter Afghanistan to cause mayhem.

This time the ANA is waiting for them.

"(The ACM) used to come to the local village (Lwara) from across the border to steal petroleum from the people," said ANA Capt. Mohammad Harif, 2nd Company commander.

In the past, once ANA patrols left the region, the ACMs would retaliate brutally against villagers who cooperated with any Coalition forces. They would destroy homes and kill villagers, said Harif. This left the nearby villagers reluctant to put faith in the ANA and embedded Coalition trainers.

"But now the ANA is here to stay, and (the ACMs) have stopped coming," said Harif. "(Some) insurgents are still remaining, hoping we will leave." With temperatures that reach up to 120 degrees, the valley is full of dry riverbeds that measure 200 meters across in some areas.

In cooperation with the Paktika governor, Mohammad Gulbadin Mongol's militia forces, the Coalition has since provided six water wells, with an additional six scheduled to be built within the year. The Coalition is also financing the construction of a school for the estimated 300 children in the region.

This is just one of the many places where the Afghan peoples' army is making a stand against the enemies of Afghanistan and this is why the ANA soldiers decided to serve in the ANA, said Harif.

"My father told me, even before the Taliban came, there were always bad people who never wanted



Capt. Mohammad Harif (center) listens to a Lwara village elder (left) during a Jirga, or town council meeting, to gain an understanding of the town's concerns.

schools in the community and who destroyed hospitals and roads," said ANA Sgt. 1st Class Mirwis Solehi, Weapons Company first sergeant. "Bad people doing bad things."

Like so many other young Afghans, the 23-year-old's entire life was engulfed with brutal fighting from the resistance against Soviet Union to skirmishes between provincial warlords. And like so many other young Afghans, the ANA soldiers are striving for a peaceful, unified country.

"The enemies of Afghanistan want us to be uneducated, so we can only cultivate the poppy fields or join the al-Qaeda army," said Solehi. "I joined the ANA because it was my father's wish that I serve the Afghan people in the ANA."

The Afghan people are focused on unifying Afghanistan and the ANA is here to bring stability to the country, and gain the trust of the Afghan people so the enemy can never build in our country again."

Breathlessly optimistic about progress in Afghanistan, ANA Sgt. Abdul Monif, Weapons Company squad leader, quickly adds to his friend and superior's comments.

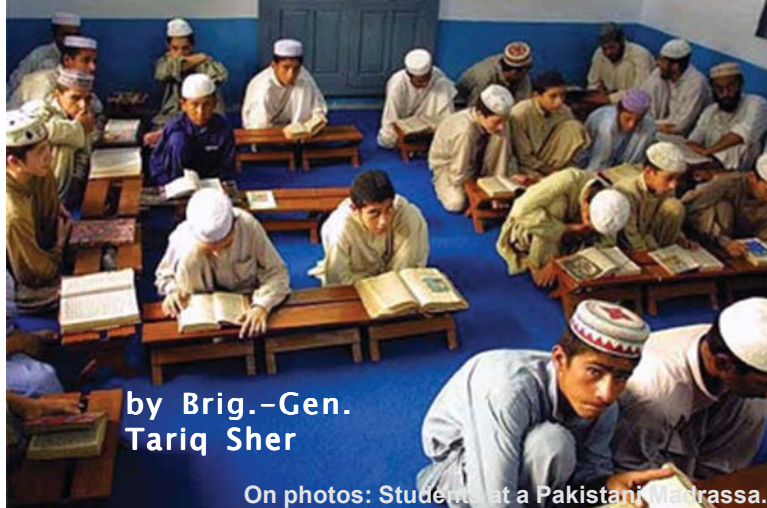
"Every day the ANA is getting more soldiers, and we will go to the borders so no bad guys will come to our country," said Monif.

"The Afghan people have a very good destiny, and I am proud of all of the reconstruction I see in Afghanistan. (God willing) one day I hope my children will benefit and be able to become a pilot or pharmacist."

CB



Madaris Reforms in Pakistan



by Brig.-Gen.
Tariq Sher

On photos: Students at a Pakistani Madrasa.

The institution of Madrasa (religious school) has been an effective mechanism in Islam to teach students religious knowledge, social sciences and sports. In Pakistan, the institution of Madrasa is well established and the Government has drawn a long-term strategy to bring these in the main stream of its education system.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Madaris in Pakistan have been the hallmark of Islamic teachings since the establishment of Muslim rule in the Indian Sub-continent. By and large these educational institutions were privately owned and administered by religious scholars themselves.

The Madaris are very sensitive about their culture and have been able to preserve their cohesion successfully. In the early sixties, the Government of Pakistan made an effort to take over control of mosques but this resulted in a strong backlash. Resultantly, all later efforts on the part of the subsequent governments in this direction were not successful.

STRUCTURE

There are three main types

to students.

Mosque Primary Schools.

Due to a lack of resources to establish new schools in every village, in the mid eighties the Government experimented with the idea of converting some Quranic schools into Mosque Primary Schools in rural areas. The plan was to add some additional subjects such as basic Urdu (the national language) and Mathematics in the syllabus.

Madaris. The mission of most Madaris in Pakistan is to prepare students for religious duties. They teach Islamic subjects such as the Quran, Islamic law/jurisprudence, logic and the Prophet's traditions. Depending upon the level of the Madrasa (primary, middle or high), the concentration of religious teachings increases. Madaris offer free education, boarding and lodging to students and thus appeal to impoverished families and individuals. On the whole, these schools are supported by private donations.

CURRICULUM

The core religious curriculum in Pakistani Madaris is similar to any other Madrasa in the world. It focuses on the principles of Islam, translation/explanation of the Quran and elaboration of the Prophet's teachings and his way of life. Most

of religious schools in Pakistan:

Quranic Schools.

At this level, the Quran is taught in words only and no translation or interpretation is provided

of the institutions impart only religious education and such education, which produces semi-literate religious scholars. It has following weaknesses:

- There is no teaching of modern sciences.
- Certain textbooks tend to inculcate the feeling of nationalism and the glorification of war.
- The teachings emphasize rote memorization and encourage very little critical thinking.
- A majority of the teachers are the product of the same Madrasa system.

INCREASE IN STRENGTH OF MADARIS

For most of Pakistan's history, Madaris numbered in the low hundreds and focused on training the next generation of religious leaders. Beginning in the mid seventies, the number of Madaris began to grow. The main reason for their growth was poor economic conditions. The other contributory factors have been events in the regional countries and Afghan Jihad in the mid eighties.



POLITICS AND RELIGION IN MADARIS

There are five major Islamic schools of thought in Pakistan; each having their own Madaris. There are presently about 8,424 Madaris in Pakistan including 560 female Madaris. The estimated strength of the students is about 1.52 million, including 175,000 female students.

By the late seventies and early eighties, some foreign elements coupled with the negative forces of the society found their way into the Madaris and sowed the seeds of sectarianism, violence and extremism. Even some political leaders began exploiting the Madaris for their own political advantage. Religious fervour, and support from the US and Western countries resulted in the defeat of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, however, it gave birth to the Madaris, which were supporting the Afghan Jihad.

REFORMS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

SOCIETY REFORMS. The Government carried out an in-depth reappraisal of the existing weaknesses in the Madaris system and as a result of this, following measures *apropos* religious institutions have been undertaken:

Regulation of Madaris. Functioning of religious Madaris has been regulated through a comprehensive ordinance.

No Objection Certificate (NOC). New schools can now be opened only after obtaining NOC from the Government.

Registration of Madaris. Existing Madaris have been registered.

Review of Syllabi. Madaris were asked to review their syllabi by the end of 2002 and a new curriculum including computer and other science subjects is now being followed.

Control/Monitoring of Activities. Any Madrassa found indulging in extremism, subversion and militancy is being closed.

Curb on Foreign Students. Only those foreign students, who have proper documents from their native governments and NOC from Government of Pakistan, are permitted to

study. The control is now strictly in place.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS. The purpose is to bring education and training imparted in the religious institutions in consonance with the requirements of the modern age on one hand and the basic tenets and spirit of Islam on the other. A project was commissioned at the cost of Rupees 6,587 Million for five years with effect from 2002-03. The aim of the project is to facilitate 8,000 willing Madaris through the teaching of English, Mathematics, Pakistan Studies/Social Studies and Computer Science at Intermediate level to integrate religious education with formal education system.

Components:

- Grant salaries to 32,000 teachers for teaching the formal subjects.

- Provide free education material, stationery items, sports facilities and one-time grants for library facilities and furniture to all Madaris.

- Provide computer equipment and laboratories to 1,000 Madaris at Intermediate level and vehicles to some of the Madaris.

- Expenditure on Project Implementation Units at provinces and federal levels.

Implementation Strategy.

The project is extended over a period of five years with effect from 2002-03. However, willing religious institutions will be facilitated for three years in a phased programme having 3,000 each in first and second years and 2,000 in third year. The Ministry of Education has developed textual and instructional material for its implementation.

Monitoring and Evaluation. The monitoring and evaluation of the project is being done by the Federal Ministry of Education.

OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED:

- To establish and strengthen two-way traffic and greater understanding between Madaris and the Government.

- To educate about 1.5 million students (male and female) of 8,000 Madaris in formal subjects from primary to intermediate levels to enable them to continue their studies in colleges and universities.

- Impart training to 32,000 teachers to improve and update their knowledge in formal subjects and teaching methodology.

- Provide incentive through books, furniture, computers and sport facilities to Madaris to improve their education system.

- Eradicate sectarianism in the country and develop a friendly atmosphere and national cohesion in the society.

CONCLUSION

The efforts of the Government of Pakistan to bring Madaris into the main stream of its education system are progressing successfully. It has profoundly helped the students to equip themselves with a balanced religious and academic education to become useful members in the society. The main objective of this paradigm shift is to graduate students who are enlightened and moderate in their outlook. It is indeed an uphill task, which demands a great deal of time, effort and resources to achieve all its objectives.

CB





EUROCORPS Takes Over ISAF Mission



Lieutenant General Jean-Louis Py

On the 11th of August 2004, the Strasbourg-based EUROCORPS, headed by French Lieutenant General Jean-Louis Py, took over responsibility for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in the Afghan capital of Kabul. General Py will command the operations of almost 7,000 soldiers from 33 nations for a period of six months. Lieutenant General (FR) Jean-Louis Py, was chief of staff of EUROFOR in Florence (Italy) in 1998.

EUROCORPS

As part of a common desire by France, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg, EUROCORPS came into existence on 22 May 1992. EUROCORPS Headquarters is situated in Strasbourg and heads a force of 50,000 men and women, as well as 700 armoured vehicles. The Franco-German brigade is a part of EUROCORPS that is deploying to Afghanistan. Of note is that EUROCORPS can be employed either by NATO or the European Union (EU). Since its establishment, it has led campaigns in Bosnia (June, 1998 – December, 1999); Kosovo (April – October, 2000), and Operation Concordia (October – December, 2003).

ISAF AND THE PEACE PROCESS

The main task of ISAF is to support the Afghan Interim Government in establishing and maintaining internal security as detailed under UN mandate. In addition, ISAF assists reconstruction efforts under the framework of civil-military cooperation. The upcoming elections scheduled for 9 October 2004, the planned set-up of additional Provincial Reconstruction Teams and the developing expansion of the ISAF area of responsibility are issues that present a special challenge for EUROCORPS.

The 360 male and female personnel of EUROCORPS headquarters have undergone several months of focused training for their mission with the first EUROCORPS personnel having left Strasbourg early in July.

CB

Extra Troops for Afghanistan



Belgium

One-hundred-and-fifty Belgian paratroopers are set to head to Afghanistan to join the UN's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). The 1st Paratrooper Battalion from Dienst came to Kabul from the military airport at Melsbroek, near Brussels.

The Belgian paratroopers formed part of a Norwegian-led battle group, along with Hungarian soldiers. The unit sent to the western district of the Afghan capital – a more dangerous posting than that of the existing Belgian force, which is stationed at Kabul airport.

Another 30-strong platoon was sent to the airport to guard ISAF's fuel depot. And a C-130 air-carrier, manned with around 20 soldiers, headed to Kabul in mid-August.

The reinforcements bring the country's total contingent in the region to 620 soldiers. That made Belgium the fifth biggest contributor to the ISAF force, which totals 6,500 soldiers.

CB



Hungary

BUDAPEST: Hungary sent an additional 74 soldiers to Afghanistan on Tuesday to reinforce its contingent with NATO's 6,500-strong International Security Assistance Force and intends to send 51 more.

The reinforcements, in line with a decision to increase ISAF taken at NATO summit in Istanbul, will take the Hungarian contribution to 156 soldiers. "It is particularly important to guarantee the safety of voters in the presidential election scheduled to take place in Afghanistan in October", said Hungarian army chief of staff Zoltan Szenes.

Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs said that the job of the Hungarian troops would be to "boost security by providing reconnaissance in Kabul and its surroundings, including Kabul international airport."

Also Hungary remains committed to the US-led coalition in Iraq, where it has about 300 troops. "Hungarian troops in Iraq and Afghanistan are doing a terrific job," told US Secretary of State Colin Powell during a tour of six European and Middle Eastern countries.

CB